

Making Connections – Thinking Hats

1. Make **Thinking Hats** for each of the students in your class using six different colors of construction paper. Use the attached pattern. Duplicate one sheet of hats per color. Cut out the Thinking Hats.
2. Attached each Thinking Hat to a craft stick or create laminated cards (depending on the age of the students). On the back of each hat, write one of the following types of connections:
 - Personal experiences
 - School subjects
 - Other books
 - Community
 - General knowledge
 - People
3. Select a story or passage at the students' independent reading level. Provide students with ample time to read the selection.
4. Divided the class into groups of six.
5. Give a different colored Thinking Hat to each student in the group. Be sure the students understand what is meant by the word on their hats. Then tell the students that the Thinking Hat that they have been given will be their focus for discussion about the story.
6. Give the students time to discuss the story using their Thinking Hats. After they have discussed the story in small groups, have them share their ideas by topic (what is written on the back of the hat). Emphasize the different types of discussions that the Thinking Hats generate.
7. For variety, give each group the same kind of Thinking Hat so that one group has "school subjects", another "personal experiences", etc.



